

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 53

December 2006

No. 10



Calendar

Wed., Dec. 27	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (subject TBA)	Tues., Jan. 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Mon., Jan. 1	Possible New Year's Day reception, Town Hall, 4–6 pm	Fri., Jan. 12	Film Society, Town Hall, 7 pm, <i>The Lady Vanishes</i> (see p 4)
Sat., Jan. 6	Large item and Christmas tree collection	Sat., Jan. 13	Town Dinner, 6:30 pm (see p 3)
Mon., Jan. 8	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., Jan. 20	Coffeehouse, Town Hall
		Wed., Jan. 24	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm

Council Meeting Focuses on Traffic

It was a long and complicated night at December's Town Council gathering. First there was a dinner for our delegates to the Maryland House and our Councilmembers ("Very pleasant," said my source on the Council). Then the delegates met with residents to discuss all manner of issues, in particular traffic safety.

Given recent events, it was an overflow and very concerned crowd that turned out to tell the delegates how unhappy the town is about unresolved issues on Strathmore Avenue.

Before that discussion got going, though, Jennie Forehand began by saying that "Montgomery County is poised to do very well in the next session" in Annapolis; she and what all the delegates called their "team" (Barve, Gilchrist, Simmons) plan to work very hard on behalf of our district.

Delegate Forehand also mentioned that there's a "significant structural deficit" in the state, and that there will be "pressure for greater revenues." Slot machines, though a popular idea with the last administration, look unlikely as part of a solution.

Now questions to the delegates began. One citizen strongly advocated stop signs along Strathmore as a "cheap safety measure," but Delegate Barve seemed to think this wasn't going to happen.

Another Garrett Parker expressed anxiety about our possibly losing our school crossing guard in future Strathmore configurations; under no circumstances, she said, should this happen.

Mayor Shawaker said that the State Highway Administration is currently at work on a com-

(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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puter model of the entire Strathmore–Knowles length, and is studying lights, synchronizing, and many other issues.

As the Town Council meeting part of the evening began, the audience decreased significantly. The main order of business, though, was fascinating—the Penn Place committee presented its final group of designs for parking and walking in that area. This seems to your reporter to have been a particularly hardworking and focused committee, with a complicated and difficult mandate, and the plans showed, in their careful detail, the thought that had gone into their work. They are now ready for presentation and discussion within the Council and among the citizens of the town.

Margaret Soltan

Art at Penn Place

The current exhibition in the gallery at Penn Place features the work of Garrett Park Estates neighbor Brian Lofgren. Brian’s interest in art began in grade school. Eventually he studied and taught at the Maryland College of Art and Design and received his BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. He likes to work in a variety of media—including pen and ink, watercolors, and acrylics—and a variety of styles. In addition to the paintings on display, he has done murals, caricatures, and cartoons, and he worked as an illustrator for many years.

Most of the works in the current exhibit are realistic acrylic paintings of scenes from the Chesapeake Bay. Brian spent much time there as a child and loves to go now with his own children. His paintings of the flora and fauna and historic buildings of the Bay reflect his special love of the area.

Another part of the exhibit features ink and watercolor illustrations of life among the Aymara people of the Andes, among whom Brian and his wife lived and worked for five years. They provide a fascinating glimpse of village life with animals, festivals, indigenous costumes, and crafts. Be sure to come up and view this latest installment of Art in Penn Place.

Sounds of the Season

Oh, what fun it was to laugh and sing all sorts of holiday songs. No, we didn’t try *Messiah* music this year, but we did have snowballs flying and jingle bells ringing at the Town Hall on December 8. We even had a request, for the very first time, to repeat a song that we had just sung. The 24th do-it-yourself carol-fest was a very rewarding event for all the participants.

Thanks must go to Sue Numrich for conducting with such enthusiasm, even with a bad back, to Ronnie Sauvain for her delicious refreshments, and to the Women’s Club for sponsoring the event. Next year makes 25 years: is there something special that can be done? We’ve had one request so far for Grinch music. Any other suggestions? If anyone would like to join the small group, give me a call.

Mary Moyer


Calling Snow Shovelers, Again

Our last *Bugle* announcement requesting snow shovelers got the very meager response seen in the print version, one of whom just wanted to baby sit and the other two put in by me, their mother. So youth of the world (13 years and up), please step forward and volunteer to make some money. This warm weather will not last. Call me (301-942-6130) or e-mail me (cdavies@csc.com) by January 1.

Carol Davies


See print version for list of job seekers.

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:
www.garrettpark.org/



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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Snow removal: Winter has happily not arrived, and our first snowstorm has yet to occur. However, “the North Wind will blow and we shall have snow,” so in order to assist our plowing contractor, David Gregg, as well as Butch and Frank, in keeping our streets clear, please remember the following:

- Park cars off the streets when snow is predicted.
- Do not block intersections, particularly the Kenilworth/Rokeby barricade. Keeping them clear allows access for emergency vehicles and speeds up plowing.
- Keep sidewalks in front of your homes shoveled. The Town Maintenance Department will take care of Penn Place and the Town Hall. Please call the Town Office if you would like a list of young residents who are interested in work shoveling snow.
- Remember that Argyle Avenue is closed for sledding when snow falls. Be especially careful where Argyle meets Rokeby at Wells Park. Should the hill become icy, the hill will be cleared or sanded.
- Remember that driveways are not plowed as part of the town’s snow removal contract. Residents are asked to clear their own driveways all the way to the street.

If any residents have special concerns about access to their homes during or after a snowstorm, please contact the Town Office so that we can be aware of them and provide assistance as needed.

We will make every effort to push back driveways and clear out snowbound cars. If you experience unusual problems, please call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

Leaf Removal, Yard Waste: Leaf removal has finished. Please do not put leaves in the street; they should be bagged and will be removed with the yard waste. Remember, yard waste is collected on the second Monday of January (Jan. 8) and the first Monday of February (Feb. 1). We will return to weekly collection in March.

Trash Collection, Large Items, & Christmas Trees: Trash and recycling pickup will take place the Thursdays after Christmas and New Year’s. There will be a large item pickup on Saturday, January 6. Christmas trees will be collected for chipping curbside as they are put out.

Holiday Tips: Many residents have given generously to the Holiday Tip Fund for the men who collect our trash. If anyone wishes to make a gift, it is not too late. We typically receive numerous

contributions after Christmas and make a second “New Year” distribution to these deserving individuals.

Town Dinner: The Town Dinner is January 13. Save the date! See below for details.

Laura, Butch, and Frank join me in wishing all town residents a happy holiday season. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call at 301-933-7488. (The office will be closed on December 22, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day.)

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator



Come to the Town Dinner

The annual Town Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 13, at the Town Hall. Meet and greet starts at 6 and dinner starts at 6:30. Dinner is a “pot luck.” Space is limited and fills up fast. Call Mary Moyer to reserve your spot, and indicate if you will be bringing an appetizer, salad and bread, main dish, or dessert. Please bring your own serving and eating utensils and enough food for 8 to 10 people. A fee of \$5 per person will be collected at the door to cover the cost of decorations, drinks, and paper goods. You can also pay your Citizens Association dues at the same time.

Since space is limited, it is suggested that you call in your reservation and what you will be bringing to share to Mary Moyer as soon as possible.

If you would be willing to help in the decoration of the Town Hall on that morning (January 13, 10 am), we need you. Come join us that evening in welcoming the new year to our town and having a say in who is elected to the next Citizens Association board (the vote will be the first order of business after dinner).

The Garrett Park Casual Musicians' Club invites you to warm yourselves at a community coffeehouse on Saturday night, January 20, from 7 to 10 pm in the Garrett Park Town Hall. From 7 to 8 pm, several musicians will entertain children and families. The remaining two hours of music will be presented by a variety of solo and ensemble performers, sharing music that moves them and entertains you. Although this event is substantially "by the community, and for the community," we welcome musicians and guests from neighboring communities in our region.

The Casual Musicians' Club consists of over 20 of your neighbors and friends in Garrett Park Town, Garrett Park Estates/White Flint Park, and surrounding communities. Most participants have full nonmusical lives, and this group provides a forum and outlet for community members' musical expression. The GPCMC welcomes new participants from the greater GP community. We hold "jam sessions" two or three times each month—on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays—at the GP Town Hall, from 8 to 11 pm. Come join us some Thursday night!

Vandalism continues. At least two town residents, one on Kenilworth Avenue and the other on Rokeby, awoke one November morning to find some of their car windows smashed out. One of the vehicles sat directly under a streetlight. To report crime or suspicious activity, call the police via the non-emergency line at 301-279-8000.

It's a simple plot, really: An old woman on a train disappears. Another woman aboard insists that she's missing, while most of the other passengers either deny it, or can't be convinced of it. Finally, another passenger agrees to help. And yet, it is so much more—Alfred Hitchcock won the Best Director Award from the New York Film Critics Circle for his work on the 1938 delightful, funny, suspenseful classic, *The Lady Vanishes*.

The Lady Vanishes is an example of how a master filmmaker could keep us laughing, on the edge of our seats, and hoping romance will bloom, all at the same time. We can tell you that there isn't an incident that hasn't a bearing on the plot. Everything that happens is a clue. And, having given you fair warning, we still defy you to outguess Mr. Hitchcock.

Thanks go again to Florence Gootenberg for her donation in memory of Santa Roy, our resident jolly North Pole citizen for many years here. We miss him, and enjoy having Florence as a member of our intrepid folding team.

Sandra-Lee Abu El-Haj

Sandra-Lee Abu El-Haj, 71, passed peacefully in New York City on Thursday, November 16.

Sandra was born in Jamaica Estates, Queens, to Ruth Avis Jones and Jacques Renaud. She lived in the New York City area until she met and married Ribhi Abu El-Haj. With their three daughters, they spent almost three decades living in the Middle East, in Tehran, Beirut, and Baghdad, where Ribhi worked as a UN development economist. Sandra taught high school, raised their girls, and traveled extensively throughout the region. Upon the family's return to the United States in 1988, Sandra began a successful career developing programs for international visitors that culminated in her position as Deputy Program Director at Delphi International, a State Department contractor. Through her work in the Middle East and in the United States, Sandra was deeply committed to promoting exchange and understanding between cultures, working toward a world of peace and social justice.

Sandra was dedicated to her community and local government, serving on the Western Montgomery County Advisory Board and taking active part in town affairs. She worked hard with the Citizens Association, inviting international visitors to the town to see home-grown democracy in action. She was also instrumental in starting an ice cream social that ran for several years in the early fall.

She was involved in her daughters' young families, frequently traveling between Washington, Philadelphia, and New York to visit and care for her grandchildren. Sandra was proud of the harmonious representation of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism in her extended family. She maintained enduring connections with family and friends around the world.

Sandra is survived by her three daughters and their families, including four grandchildren: Thea Renda Abu El-Haj, Steven Rosenzweig, Reem Esther, and Saria Ruth Rosenzweig-Abuelhaj of Philadelphia; Nadia Lee Abu El-Haj, Amer Bisat, and Aya Bisat of New York City; Tabatha Arianne Abu El-Haj, Aaron Passell, and Luca Hunter Abu El-Haj of Washington, D.C.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Sandra's memory to be sent to the Early Childhood Resource Center of Jerusalem. For further details, please contact her son-in-law Amer Bisat, at 646-637-8276 or abisat@rubicon-us.com.

Silvia Lichtenstein

Silvia Lichtenstein, a 48-year resident of "the Park" that she loved, died on October 17, at the age of 85.

Silvia was born in 1921, in New York City. Her only sibling was a twin brother who died in 1985.

Silvia fell in love with Garrett Park in the early 1960's, after spending an evening going door to door collecting signatures to protest the Vietnam War. After having conversations with neighbors, she decided this was the town she wanted to live and raise her children in.

Until the day she died, Silvia remained a very active contributor to and volunteer in the community. She was one of the original members of G.I.V.E.S. in the 1970's; she prepared soup for all the soup suppers, and she attended many fundraisers. She also supported the Citizens Association programs. It was a proud day for her when Garrett Park became a Nuclear Free Zone.

Silvia came from an era in this country when people seemed to have greater concern for their fellow man, and though she never had a professional career, she made her concern for the welfare of people her profession. Her social activism and caring extended well beyond Garrett Park's border.

Silvia was a passionate mother, grandmother, friend, neighbor, peace activist, civil rights crusader, cook, potter, and gardener. She cared deeply for what was right and just. She especially loved children.

Though she sometimes displayed a gruff demeanor, she was a woman of many virtues. She was unselfish, loyal, generous, and direct. And she was usually right. Silvia made a difference. Her family and friends miss her.

Amy Lichtenstein Baker

From the PO

Kathy, Donna, and Maria would like to thank everyone for their kind words and patience during the hectic holiday season. We would also like to let everyone know how much we appreciate your efforts in notifying your correspondents of your correct mailing address. This helps so much with our goal of getting the correct mail to the correct person in the most efficient and timely manner possible. The staff also hopes that having the mailing materials out in the lobby made it easier for some to mail their packages.

As a reminder, the only address that needs to be on your mail is your **PO Box number, City, State, and Zip**. If the mailer insists on having the street address, it can be on the line above the PO Box, or as a last resort, street address, then box number on the same line, i.e., 4600 Waverly Ave Box 491, Garrett Park, MD 20896-0491.

Please e-mail me at Kathleen.A.Matzak@usps.gov with any comments (positive ones are also appreciated) or concerns you might have. You can also e-mail me with vacation hold requests. It is checked daily. We hope you have a happy and safe holiday season.

Postmaster Kathy

- ♪ Helen and David Fredericks scampered out of town in the beginning of December, moving to Riderwood Village in Silver Spring. Their good conversation and neat Halloween decorations will be missed. You can give them a call (301-890-8050) if you want to keep in touch.
- ♪ The *Washington Post* "Reliable Source" had a short article about our local filmmaker (and swimming pool worker) Greg Godbout and his take on the summer antics that go on

at Dewey Beach, Delaware. Greg, owner of Arlington Cinema 'n' Draft-house, acted as producer of the film *Dewey Beach: The Movie*.

- ♪ Les Henig was also in the paper, telling about his time spent at a bank in Ecuador getting a traveler's check cashed. He somehow isn't sure if all the nonhuman contact that we experience today getting our errands done is a good thing. ATM's just aren't the same as the manager of a bank taking the time to talk to visitors from another country.

GPES

The Halloween UNICEF collection netted \$871.61, with some boxes still sitting in Principal Derby's office waiting to be counted. The total included 33 pounds of pennies (5,971 to be exact). This money will make a difference to children of the undeveloped countries. According to UNICEF, 7 cents can buy crayons for a class, \$1 can immunize a child against polio, \$10 can buy a month's supply of biscuits for three children, and \$150 can provide clean water for a village.

The Winter Chorus Concert was a rousing success—especially the song about dogs and the hand jive nursery rhyme song. Of course Mr. Smith didn't make it to school the next day, being plum tuckered out. He is back and now working on the musical theatre production.

Winter break will provide a welcome rest for the staff and students. Then it will be time to work very hard for the rest of the first semester.

Mary Moyer

Who Put Paint in Our Woods?

Around November 30, Garrett Park experienced its own little toxic waste incident. As many of you noticed, someone dumped white oil-based paint into the pool at the base of the culvert near the Clermont Avenue entrance to Porcupine Woods. The pool had a solid scum of white paint, and the whole park reeked from the paint smell. The County Environmental Protection Department put a boom across the creek and laid absorbent pads on the water to absorb the paint and prevent it from washing further downstream. They returned several days later and skimmed the remaining paint from the pool. Needless to say, those who saw the mess were pretty dismayed that anyone would use the creek as a paint dump. The paint was apparently thrown into the water from right on the bank of the pool. If anyone happened to see anything, please let Ted Pratt know.

A Note of Thanks

In case you didn't see it on the poster in the PO, the following is a message from the Carter-Schelp family:

"Dear Friends and Neighbors,

"The outpouring of love and support from Garrett Park has been generous and honestly, not surprising. It is not only in the face of tragedy that this community shines. One only needs to attend the Fourth of July parade and picnic, movie night, Attic-in-the-Street, community sing-along, casual music jams, Halloween parade or just pick up mail to feel this town's magic. Luke may not be with us physically at these events in the days to come, but we like to think he helped create some of the magic.

"Thanks for every kindness, much love,

"Val, Paul, and Chopper"

Attention GPES Parents

Introducing Jeremy's "Read-It Club"!

Your child will be receiving information from school about Jeremy's "Read-It Club," sponsored by your neighbor, Jeremy Lichtenstein. This is a program designed to reward your child for reading books. Please look the packet over and encourage your child to sign up. The love of reading is a gift that lasts a lifetime.



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Letter from the Mayor

Many things are happening in town to help make Strathmore safer for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The lights are on, although an accident in the night of December 13 took out two of them. There are flags at each side of all the crosswalks for pedestrians to use to get drivers' attention before crossing. Congressman Chris Van Hollen's staff and Delegate Bill Bronrot have offered help to get "safe routes to school" funds to increase safety along Strathmore.

On December 8, I invited four members of the Department of Transportation to discuss a fully operating traffic signal at Kenilworth and Strathmore. They were given a copy of a petition with almost 250 signatures, copies of several e-mails describing the observations of residents indicating an urgent need for a full signal, and a list of "quality of life issues" also indicating the need for a full signal. They agreed to look into "safe routes to school" money also. The group promised that they will do a computer model to see how a full signal would affect traffic and safety. They will report back to us in early January.

I was invited to attend the Montgomery County Inauguration on December 4. It was a very optimistic occasion. The Town Council, some of the officers of the Citizens Association, and I also attended the Committee for Montgomery Breakfast on December 11, at which both County

Executive Leggett and Governor-Elect O'Malley spoke.

Kensington and several other municipalities are joining with us to examine Pepco rates, both the lack of proper rates and proposed increases. Pepco is currently seeking a 3.9-percent increase for residential locations for a "delivery of power" fee, in addition to a universal service fee charge. Municipalities are considered commercial by Pepco. It is proposing a 15-percent increase for the town for delivery of power. With over 100 lights on town streets and 78 new lights along Strathmore, this will have a serious impact on our town budget.

This is the time of year to think about gifts. One of the great gifts our town receives is the hard work of our very dedicated staff, Ted, Laura, Butch, Frank, Barbara, and Mary. Another gift is the generous contributions of the time and talents of many of our residents. Even in our sorrow and grief of the last month, one bright spot was the contributions of so many residents, as well as many outside our town, to bring help and comfort. I would like to add that I am personally grateful to so many people for their support and kindness. I am very proud to live among such generous people.

Best wishes for a beautiful holiday season and a wonderful 2007.

Carolyn Shawaker

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